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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Contag, P., et al.

Serial No.: 09/183,566

Art Unit: 1645

Filing Date: 30 October 1998

Examiner: Robert Zeman

Title: BIODETECTORS TARGETED TO SPECIFIC LIGANDS

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION AND AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office action, mailed 2 May 2002, in the above-referenced application. The response date, with one-month extension, falls on 2 September 2002, which is a Federal Holiday, making the due date 3 September 2002. No further fees are believed due in addition to the accompanying check. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 18-1648 any fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16, 1.17 and 1.21 which may be required by this paper, with the exception of the Issue Fee. Reconsideration of the application in view of the following amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.

Accompanying Documents

1. a marked-up copy of the claim set indicating the amendments set forth in this paper (Appendix A);
2. a clean copy of the pending claims after entry of the amendments set forth in this paper (Appendix B);
3. a Petition for Extension of Time (one-month);
4. Notice of Change in Status;
5. a check; and
6. a postcard.

Amendment

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 6-10 and 19-24, without prejudice or disclaimer. Please amend claims 1, 5, and 11, without prejudice or disclaimer, as shown in Appendix A. Please add new claims 25-31, as shown in Appendix A.

A clean copy of the claims, after entry of the amendments, can be found in Appendix B.

REMARKS

Introductory Comments

Claims 1 and 4-24 are pending in the application. New claims 25-31 have been added. Claims 6-10 and 19-24 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 5 and 11 have been amended without prejudice or disclaimer. Cancellation or amendment of the claims is not intended to be an acquiescence in the Office's assessment of those claims in the 2 May 2002 Communication, and applicants expressly reserve the right to bring the subject matter of the original claims again in a subsequent, related application. Accordingly, the pending claims are claims 1, 4, 5, 11-18, and 25-31.

Claims 1, 4-8 and 13-18 have been rejected for the following reasons.